

April 15, 2013

Hon. Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Hon. Robert McDowell
Hon. Mignon Clyburn
Hon. Ajit Pai
Hon. Jessica Rosenworcel
Commissioners
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

RE: The FCC's Foreign Ownership Policies (MB Docket 13-50); Public Notice, DA 13-281 (2/26/13)

The undersigned 31 national minority and civil rights organizations respectfully request that the Commission ease its restrictions on foreign investment in broadcasting.

Over the past several years, minority broadcast ownership has undergone a steep and unprecedented decline. That happened in large measure because most of the U.S. banks and venture firms that financed small and medium sized broadcast transactions a decade ago have left the space entirely.

To reverse the decline in minority broadcast ownership, one of the most significant steps the Commission could take is to relax its strict application of Section 310(b)(4) of the Communications Act, which generally prohibits foreign investors from owning more than a 25 percent stake in a broadcast station.

Encouraging foreign investment in American broadcasting would also create reciprocal opportunities for American broadcasters to expand their footprints into radio and television markets in Central and South America, Africa, the Caribbean, Spain, China, Korea, the U.K., Canada and Australia.

By relaxing its restrictions on foreign investment in broadcasting, the Commission would greatly assist minority broadcasters whose survival depends on their ability to grow domestically and internationally.

Sincerely,

A. Philip Randolph Institute
American Indians in Film and Television
Asian American Chamber of Commerce
Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies
Black College Communication Association
Black Entertainment and Sports Lawyers Association
Black Leadership Forum
International Black Broadcasters Association
Japanese American Citizens League
Latinos in Information Sciences and Technology Association
League of United Latin American Citizens
MANA, A National Latina Organization
Minority Media and Telecommunications Council
National Association of Black County Officials
National Association of Hispanic Publications

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National Association of Multicultural Digital Entrepreneurs
National Association of Neighborhoods
National Black Caucus of State Legislators
National Black Chamber of Commerce
National Black Church Initiative
National Black Coalition for Media Justice
National Black Religious Broadcasters
National Conference of Puerto Rican Women, Inc.
National Congress of Black Women, Inc.
National Indian Telecom Institute
National Newspaper Publishers Association
National Organization of Black Elected Legislative Women
National Puerto Rican Chamber of Commerce
Rainbow PUSH Coalition
Universal Impact
Women's Institute for Freedom of the Press

The contact person for this letter is David Honig, President, Minority Media and Telecommunications Council, 3636 16th St. N.W., Suite B-366, Washington, DC 20010, (202) 332-0500; dhonig@crosslink.net.